

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01534 272035 Z

73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-12

IGA-02 IO-12 SCI-06 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 AGR-20

SSO-00 (ADP) W

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P R 271930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4216

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1534

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, HO

SUBJECT: DROUGHT DISASTER MESSAGE NO 1

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1491 (NOTAL)

FROM AMBASSADOR

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP AND USAID

1. I HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST AND VISIT
FROM THE NATIONAL PERMANENT EMERGENCY COUNCIL (COPEN)
REQUESTING DISASTER RELIEF RELATING TO THE CURRENT
DROUGHT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HONDURAS AND ANTICIPATING
ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE INUNDATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF
HONDURAS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE DROUGHT IN THE
SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY IS ALREADY REACHING DISASTER
PROPORTIONS AND I THEREFORE REQUEST \$25,000 AUTHORIZATION
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01534 272035 Z

TO RESPOND TO PRIORITY ELEMENTS OF THE COPEN REQUEST.

2. A REQUEST HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TO BRING IN A DISASTER RELIEF SPECIALIST TO ASSIST COPEN IN DESIGNING ITS DISASTER PROGRAM.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY SURVEYS, THE DROUGHT HAS AFFECTED 20,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF VALLE, CHOLUTECA, EL PARAISO, FRANCISCO MORAZAN, AND SANTA BARBARA, WITH APPROXIMATELY 100,000 ADULTS AND 200,000 CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT. COPEN HAS REQUESTED HYDROLOGISTS AND WELL DRILLING TECHNICIANS. IN ADDITION THEY HAVE REQUESTED THREE WELL DRILLING RIGS. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED UP TO 150 DAYS OF FOOD SUPPLIES OR 15,703 SHORT TONS OF FOOD TO BE CHanneled THROUGH CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. WILL SEND TEXT OF REQUEST AND BREAKDOWN IN SEPARATE MESSAGE. THE ABOVE RELATES ONLY TO DROUGHT DISASTER AND NOT REQUESTS FOR ANTICIPATED FLOODING DISASTER.

4. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT OF COPEN, COL DE LA CRUZ HERNANDEZ, THAT HE BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF UN, GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, CHINA, JAPAN AND GERMANY WITH HOPE THAT DISASTER ASSISTANCE CAN COME FROM MULTI- COUNTRY SOURCES.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO UTILIZE EXISTING AID- FUNDED CONTRACT WITH RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES TO OBTAIN HYDROGEOLOGIST AND CAPABILITY TO INTERPRET ERTS PHOTOGRAPHY. WITH SLIGHT ADDITION TO CONTRACT, WE COULD HELP COPEN DESIGN OPERATIONAL WELL DRILLING PROGRAM.

6. UNDERSTAND THAT MACGREGOR CO IN NICARAGUA HAS WELL DRILLING EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ON CONTRACT. HOWEVER REQUEST AID / W AND NEW CUMBERLAND ADVISE IF SURPLUS WELL DRILLING EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE ON EMERGENCY BASIS FOR PURCHASE BY GOH.

7. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT PL-480 FOOD STOCKS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON REVIEWING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEGUCI 01534 272035 Z

AVAILABILITIES. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL INVESTIGATE AVAILABILITIES OF IN- COUNTRY STOCKS AND ATTEMPT TO DIRECT COPEN TO THE UN AND OTHER COUNTRY SOURCES.

8. IN GOH PRESSES FOR ASSISTANCE AND IF THE SITUATION GETS WORSE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO REQUEST A DISASTER RELIEF LOAN. I WILL HOWEVER HOLD THIS MATTER IN ABEYANCE UNTIL I GET A BETTER READING OF SITUATION.

RYAN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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